



ALABAMA DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

Bureau of County Transportation

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Bob Riley
Governor

Joe McInnes
Transportation Director

January 16, 2009

MEMORANDUM 2009-02

TO: County Engineers

CC: Division Engineers and Division County Transportation Engineers

FROM:


D.E. (Ed) Phillips, Jr., State County Transportation Engineer

REFERENCE: FY 2009 National Historic Covered Bridge Preservation Program

Please find attached correspondence from the Federal Highway Administration soliciting applications for the FY 2009 National Historic Covered Bridge Preservation Program. Should you be interested in submitting an application, please coordinate your efforts with Mr. Don Harris, of this office.

Please feel free to contact me should you have any questions or comments concerning this matter.

DEP/dep
Attachment

pc: Mr. Don T. Arkle, Assistant Chief Engineer, Policy & Planning
Mr. Ronnie Baldwin, State Office Engineer
Mr. Buddy Sharpless, ACCA
County Transportation Bureau Staff



U.S. Department
of Transportation

**Federal Highway
Administration**

Alabama Division

January 14, 2009

500 Eastern Blvd., Suite 200
Montgomery, AL 36117-2018

In Reply Refer To:
HDA-AL

Mr. D. J. McInnes
Director
Alabama Department of Transportation
Montgomery, Alabama

Subject: Call for National Historic Covered
Bridge Preservation Program Candidates

Dear Mr. McInnes:

Enclosed is a January 12, 2009, memorandum from the Director, Office of Bridge Technology about the program and how to submit applications for eligible covered bridges. The information can also be found at <http://www.fhwa.dot.gov/bridge/covered.htm>.

We must receive the applications in time to complete our review and submit them to the Director, Office of Bridge Engineering on or before March 2, 2009. If more than one candidate is submitted, the candidates must be prioritized by the Director.

If there are questions, please contact Robert L. King, P.E. at Robert.King@fhwa.dot.gov, or 223-7376

Sincerely yours,

for: Mark D. Bartlett, P. E.
Division Administrator

Enclosure

**MOVING THE
AMERICAN
ECONOMY**





Memorandum

Subject: **ACTION:** National Historic Covered
Bridge Preservation Program Request for
FY 2009 Project Applications (**Reply Due:**
March 2, 2009)

Date: January 12, 2009

In Reply Refer To:
HIBT-30

From: **/s/ Original Signed by**
M. Myint Lwin, P.E., S.E.
Director, Office of Bridge Technology

To: Division Administrators

The purpose of this memorandum is to solicit applications for the FY 2009 National Historic Covered Bridge Preservation (NHCBP) Program and to provide an update on the FY 2008 program.

The NHCBP Program was established by Section 1804 of the Safe, Accountable, Flexible, Efficient Transportation Equity Act: A Legacy for Users (SAFETEA-LU) Public Law 109-59, and provides funding to assist the States in the rehabilitation, repair, or preservation of the Nation's historic covered bridges. For the purposes of the NHCBP Program, the term "historic covered bridge" means a covered bridge that is listed or eligible for listing on the National Register for Historic Places. The NHCBP Program provides for two categories of projects. One category is to assist the States in carrying out the rehabilitation, repair, or preservation of the Nation's historic covered bridges. The other category focuses on research and education on and about the Nation's historic covered bridges.

This solicitation is only intended for applications regarding the rehabilitation, repair, or preservation of the Nation's historic covered bridges.

FY 2008 NHCBP Program

Applications for projects were solicited through a memorandum that was distributed on March 3, 2008, and received on April 30, 2008. A total of 21 applications were received from 7 States. Project application requests for funding totaled over \$9.8 million. Due to the SAFETEA-LU Technical Corrections Act of 2008 (Public Law 110-244), available funds for FY 2008 were reduced by \$10,000, leaving a total of \$9,230,000 available to achieve the goals of program for projects, research and education. A total of 10 percent of the amount available (\$923,000) was proposed for research and education purposes as required by SAFETEA-LU Section 1804b. The balance of approximately \$8.3 million was made available for projects. Having recently received a balance of funds that was returned at the

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end of FY 2008 and approval of recommended awards by the U.S. Secretary of Transportation, 16 projects in 7 States have been granted awards, see Attachment 1.

FY 2009 NHCBP Program

Due to the continuing resolution that we are currently operating under, new authorization for the FY 2009 NHCBP program and the total amount of funds available for projects, research and education has not been made available yet. However, in order to have a chance of awarding program funds during the fiscal year, our FY 2009 plan must be developed. The plan includes for a proposal of 10 percent of the total amount of FY 2009 funds to be used for research and education purposes as required by SAFETEA-LU Section 1804b. Research and education funds will be administered separately. The balance of FY 2009 funds will be made available for projects, which are solicited through this memorandum.

New applications for the FY 2009 NHCBP Program are requested at this time. Using the criteria and associated selection considerations as described below, division offices are to assist the State in determining eligible projects to be submitted. Division offices should review State's applications for eligibility, completeness, and assignment of the State's priorities.

All applications that were submitted for FY 2008 which did not receive FY 2008 funding awards will automatically receive consideration for FY 2009 unless otherwise notified by the submitting State. Though it is not necessary for consideration, we invite all applicants to submit any updated information on their projects which they feel appropriate for further consideration by March 2, 2009.

Grants will be awarded to States submitting eligible projects that demonstrate a need for assistance in carrying out one or more eligible projects as outlined below:

- (A) to rehabilitate or repair a historic covered bridge;
- (B) to preserve a historic covered bridge, including through
 - (i) installation of a fire protection system, including a fireproofing or fire detection system and sprinklers;
 - (ii) installation of a system to prevent vandalism and arson; or
 - (iii) relocation of a bridge to a preservation site.

To ensure the bridges retain their historical significance, grants will be awarded for projects only if:

- (A) to the maximum extent practicable, the project
 - (i) is carried out in the most historically appropriate manner; and
 - (ii) preserves the existing structure of the historic covered bridge; and
- (B) the project provides for the replacement of wooden components, with wooden components, unless the use of wood is impracticable for safety reasons.

Each project must be carried out in the most historically appropriate manner following the Department of the Interior's Standards, and the standards and guidelines approved by the State Historic Preservation Officer. The Secretary of the Interior's Standards for the Treatment of Historic Properties may be obtained at the Web site, <http://www.cr.nps.gov/hps/tps/standguide/> and should be consulted for the distinct approaches to treatment of historic properties. Although the standards were developed for historic buildings, the terms, guidelines, and suggested approaches are generally applicable to historic covered bridges. States should also consult the FHWA "Covered Bridge Manual," FHWA Publication No. FHWA-HRT-04-098 for additional information, which may be obtained at the Web site, <http://www.tfhrc.gov/structur/pubs/04098/index.htm>. Please refer to Attachment 2 for additional guidance.

There is no specific form required and applicants have the flexibility to present the information in any form which they deem appropriate. The State's application should include a description of the project in enough detail to demonstrate that it meets one or more of the goals of this program. Included, as Attachment 3, is a list of the required data items for candidate projects. Projects previously submitted but not selected may reapply.

Applications and other support documents that provide further description of the project, such as the scope of work and bridge plans, should be completed and submitted to the Director, Office of Bridge Technology, on or before March 2, 2009. As an alternative to paper, applications may be submitted electronically.

This memorandum and attachments are also being posted on the National Historic Covered Bridge Preservation Program Web site, <http://www.fhwa.dot.gov/bridge/covered.htm>.

All information is being collected under OMB Control Number 2125-0609.

Questions concerning this program should be addressed to Mr. Everett Matias at (202) 366-6712 (everett.matias@dot.gov) or Mr. Thomas Everett at (202) 366-4675 (thomas.everett@dot.gov) of the Office of Bridge Technology.

Attachments

cc:

HRC-BAL

HRC-ATL

HRC-SFO

RCM-OLY

RCM-LKWD

**Attachment 1 – Project Awards for the FY 2008
National Historic Covered Bridge Preservation (NHCBP) Program**

State	Bridge Name	Requested Amount	Award
Illinois	Oquawka Wagon Covered Bridge	\$72,000	\$68,000
Indiana	Snow Hill Covered Bridge	\$376,500	\$376,500
New Hampshire	Bath Village Covered Bridge	\$2,320,000	\$2,320,000
New York	Beaverkill Covered Bridge	\$90,000	\$72,000
Ohio	West Engle Mill Covered Bridge	\$840,000	\$425,681
Ohio	Eldean Covered Bridge	\$16,000	\$16,000
Oregon	Chambers Railroad Bridge	\$1,315,370	\$1,315,370
Oregon	Chitwood Covered Bridge	\$1,076,760	\$1,076,760
Oregon	N. Fk. Yachats River Covered Bridge	\$596,704	\$596,704
Oregon	Gallon House Covered Bridge	\$51,147	\$51,147
Oregon	Nelson Mountain Covered Bridge	\$17,946	\$17,946
Oregon	Mosby Creek (Layng) Covered Bridge	\$17,946	\$17,946
Oregon	Pengra Covered Bridge	\$17,946	\$17,946
Vermont	Hutchins Covered Bridge	\$1,000,000	\$1,000,000
Vermont	West Hill Creamery Covered Bridge	\$435,000	\$435,000
Vermont	Worrall Covered Bridge	\$500,000	\$500,000
Total		\$8,743,319	\$8,307,000

Attachment 2 – Description and Background National Historic Covered Bridge Preservation Program

Summary:

This document describes the National Historic Covered Bridge Preservation (NHCBP) Program for FY 2009. The NHCBP Program was established and authorized in the Safe, Accountable, Flexible, Efficient Transportation Equity Act: A Legacy for Users (SAFETEA-LU), Public Law 109-59. This legislation reiterates the goals and requirements of the NHCBP Program established under the Transportation Efficiency Act for the 21st Century (TEA-21) Public Law 105-178 as amended by Title IX of Public Law 105-206. Implementation guidance was developed for this program considering public input provided through solicitation in the Federal Register FHWA Docket No. FHWA-2000-7646. As the goals, objectives and eligibility of projects through SAFETEA-LU are effectively equivalent to those specified in TEA-21, the implementation guidance developed previously will be utilized.

Background:

The Safe, Accountable, Flexible, Efficient Transportation Equity Act: A Legacy for Users (SAFETEA-LU) Public Law 109-59 establishes the NHCBP Program and authorizes \$10 million annually to be appropriated for each fiscal year between FY 2006 and FY 2009. The program is established to provide grants to States for rehabilitation, repair and preservation of historic covered bridges and to enable the Secretary of Transportation to perform research and initiate education programs on historic covered bridges.

Grants are prescribed for eligible projects, which include rehabilitation and repair together with preservation through: installation of fire protection systems, including a fireproofing or fire detection system and sprinklers, installation of a system to prevent vandalism and arson, or relocation of a bridge to a preservation site. Grants require that to the maximum extent practicable, the project is carried out in the most historically appropriate manner, preserves the existing structure of the historic covered bridge, and that the project provides for the replacement of wooden components, with wooden components, unless the use of wood is impracticable for safety reasons.

Research and education activities include: collection and dissemination of information on historic covered bridges, conducting educational programs relating to the history and construction techniques of historic covered bridges, conducting research on the history of historic covered bridges, conducting research on, and study techniques for, protecting historic covered bridges from rot, fire, natural disasters, or weight-related damage.

Guidelines and Administration

Applicants for assistance with preservation, rehabilitation or repair of historic covered bridges are limited to State DOT's. Bridges must either be on the National Register of Historic Places or eligible for listing. Applicants are encouraged to consult the U.S. Department of Agriculture document, "Identifying and Preserving Historic Bridges," document 0071-2854-MTDC for more information on historicity of the structures. Project assistance is provided for rehabilitation, repair or preservation. These terms are defined in the Secretary of the Interior's Standards for the Treatment of Historic Properties. These, and other applicable considerations, are discussed in the "Covered Bridge Manual", FHWA Publication No. FHWA-HRT-04-098. This manual may be obtained on-line at <http://www.tfhr.gov/structur/pubs/04098/index.htm>.

Application Evaluation and Project Selection

The following information is required for project applications. The information requirements are based on the data collected through the program in previous years, with some simplifications. The information is also summarized in Attachment 3. This information is being collected under OMB Control Number 2125-0609. There is no specific form required and applicants have the flexibility to present the information in any form which they deem appropriate.

- State's Priority Ranking;
- NBI Structure Number;
- Bridge Name;
- Description of Location;
- Congressional District and Representative;
- Year Built;
- Whether the structure is on or eligible for listing on the National Register of Historic Places and description of the qualities that qualify the bridge for the National Register;
- Structure description (e.g., number of spans, length, width, design type, description of decking, beams/stringers, sides and roof, wood species, wood preservation system in use, builder, traffic carried, etc.);
- General plan and elevation;
- Description of previous repair work (description, year, etc.);
- Description of proposed work including wood preservative system, fire protection, vandalism and arson prevention systems to be used;
- Indication of whether the State has a historic bridge inventory/management plan accepted by the State Historic Preservation Officer (SHPO). A programmatic agreement for historic bridges with the SHPO, FHWA and the Advisory Counsel on Historic Preservation (ACHP) may substitute;

- Description of whether the SHPO has reviewed and certified this project as warranted in accordance with the SHPO's statewide historic preservation plan; how it benefits statewide preservation efforts; how it enhances cultural tourism or enhances the history/economic development of the community; and other benefits upon successful completion of this project;
- Amount of State or local government matching funds or other resources (donated materials or labor may qualify);
- When the project is complete, will the bridge meet the current State or AASHTO standards for the roadway classification that it carries;
- Plan for documentation of the bridge and the work performed;
- Scheduled start and completion date for the project (month and year); and
- Contact information for the State DOT, Local Agency (if applicable), FHWA Division Office, and SHPO.

All projects will be evaluated and recommended for funding by a selection panel. Award recommendations will be made by the Director, FHWA Office of Bridge Technology, based on the recommendations of the panel. State priorities will be considered by the panel together with the reasons for the priority. The FHWA will attempt to equitably distribute funds to applicant States in accordance with the States' priorities; however, it is to be expected that high cost project requests may be funded at less than 100 percent of a State's requested amount.

Candidate projects which meet the intent of this program will receive the highest priority. Applicants may want to provide additional information to explain how the project meets the intent of the program. Candidate projects ready for or near the construction phase will be given priority consideration. Candidate projects that leverage Federal funds with other significant public or private resources will be given preference. Candidate projects, which further the aims of the State Historic Preservation Plan with the endorsement of the SHPO, will be given priority consideration. Candidate projects proposing complete restoration and rehabilitation will be given priority over candidate projects proposing only the installation of fire/vandalism protection systems or projects that propose to move the bridge to a preservation location.

Amounts Available and Application Deadlines

Due to the continuing resolution that we are currently operating under, new authorization for the FY 2009 NHCBP program and the total amount of funds available for projects, research and education has not been made available yet. However, in order to have a chance of awarding program funds during the fiscal year, our FY 2009 plan must be developed. The plan includes for a proposal of 10 percent of the total amount of FY 2009 funds to be used for research and education purposes as required by SAFETEA-LU Section 1804b. Research and education funds will be administered separately. The balance of FY 2009 funds will be made available for projects.

Grants for projects to the States are administered by the FHWA Office of Bridge Technology. Applications must be submitted by the States to the Director, FHWA Office

of Bridge Technology, with notification and concurrence by the FHWA Division Office. For FY 2009, **applications must be received by March 2, 2009.**

FHWA Office of Bridge Technology Contacts

For questions concerning the NHCBP program, please contact Mr. Everett Matias, FHWA Office of Bridge Technology, HIBT-30, at (202) 366-6712, FAX (202) 366-3077, or e-mail everett.matias@dot.gov; and Mr. Thomas Everett, FHWA Office of Bridge Technology, HIBT-30, at (202) 366-4675, FAX (202) 366-3077, or e-mail thomas.everett@dot.gov.

**Attachment 3 – Information Required for Project Applications
National Historic Covered Bridge Preservation Program – FY 2009**

The following information is required for project applications. The information requirements are based on the data collected through the program in previous years, with some simplifications. This information is being collected under OMB Control Number 2125-0609. There is no specific form required and applicants have the flexibility to present the information in any form which they deem appropriate.

- State's Priority Ranking;
- NBI Structure Number;
- Bridge Name;
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- Whether the structure is on or eligible for listing on the National Register of Historic Places and description of the qualities that qualify the bridge for the National Register;
- Structure description (e.g., number of spans, length, width, design type, description of decking, beams/stringers, sides and roof, wood species, wood preservation system in use, builder, traffic carried, etc.);
- General plan and elevation;
- Description of previous repair work (description, year, etc.);
- Description of proposed work including wood preservative system, fire protection, vandalism and arson prevention systems to be used;
- Indication of whether the State has a historic bridge inventory/management plan accepted by the State Historic Preservation Officer (SHPO). A programmatic agreement for historic bridges with the SHPO, FHWA and the Advisory Counsel on Historic Preservation (ACHP) may substitute;
- Description of whether the SHPO has reviewed and certified this project as warranted in accordance with the SHPO's statewide historic preservation plan; how it benefits statewide preservation efforts; how it enhances cultural tourism or enhances the history/economic development of the community; and other benefits upon successful completion of this project;
- Amount of State or local government matching funds or other resources (donated materials or labor may qualify);
- When the project is complete, will the bridge meet the current State or AASHTO standards for the roadway classification that it carries;
- Plan for documentation of the bridge and the work performed;
- Scheduled start and completion date for the project (month and year); and
- Contact information for the State DOT, Local Agency (if applicable), FHWA Division Office, and SHPO.